

Amendment
Serial No. 10/774,195
March 28, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.83(p)(5) because they did not include reference characters. Applicant has submitted herewith corrected formal drawings as replacement sheets. All of the reference characters that are missing or incorrect have been inserted and corrected.

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 through 35 remain in the application. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claims 1, 16, 29 and 35 are in independent form. Claims 16 through 34 have been allowed. Claims 2, 3 and 6 through 14 have been objected to. Claims 1, 4, 5 and 15 stand rejected.

The Examiner has requested a clarification as to the priority of the above-captioned patent application. A request for this clarification is due to the fact that the chain of priority as stated in this patent application is different than the chain of priority identified in one patent application within the chain. The patent application, serial number 10/616,120 identifies a chain of priority that is incorrect. In addition, this patent application has been abandoned. The chain of priority set forth in the above-captioned patent application is correct and does not need to be amended. Should the Examiner require additional statements regarding the chain of priority is requested to contact the undersigned.

The drawings have been objected to because they fail to comply with certain rules due to the incorrect reference characters and missing reference characters throughout the drawings. All of the drawings have been replaced with replacement sheets identifying the correct reference characters and inserting reference characters that were inadvertently left out. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

The disclosure has been objected to because the reference characters in paragraphs 0059 and 0060 do not correspond with the rest of the specification and the drawings. Applicant has amended these paragraphs to correctly correlate the reference characters found therein with the reference characters found in the rest of the specification and the drawings. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses this objection and asserts that the specification is in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant has amended claim 15 to remove the recitation of “substantially” and further provides proper antecedent language for the “hardware components.” Therefore, claim 15 and all claims depending therefrom overcome this rejection.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Publication Number 2001/0025456A1, filed on March 8, 2001 (“the ’456 reference”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The ’456 reference discloses a carrier 65 door hardware components (shown in Figure 4), a trim panel 52, a second trim panel 51 and the positions from the carrier plate.

Claim 1, as amended, claims a door module assembly for a motor vehicle door. The door module assembly includes a carrier holding a plurality of door hardware components and a pre-configured orientation. The door module assembly also includes a first trim panel which is connected to the carrier. The door module assembly also includes at least a second trim panel, joined to the first trim panel and articulated therefrom. The second trim panel is movable between a position generally distanced from the carrier plate and an installed position generally flush with the first trim panel and overlapping the carrier plate.

While the ’456 reference discloses a trim panel and a second trim panel, it does not disclose an assembly having a second trim panel that is joined to the first trim panel and articulated therefrom. The two panels are separate and distinct.

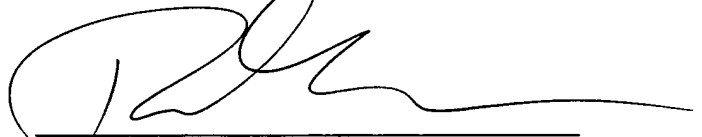
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In contradistinction, claim 1 as amended to clarify the invention, specifically states that the second trim panel is joined to the first trim panel and articulated therefrom allowing it to move with respect to the first trim panel.

Claim 4 stands rejected because it depends directly from claim 1 as originally filed. Applicant has amended claim 4 to change its dependency to that of claim 3 which depends from the amended claim 1. Therefore, claim 4 overcomes the rejection under 35 USC §102(e) and is in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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